



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

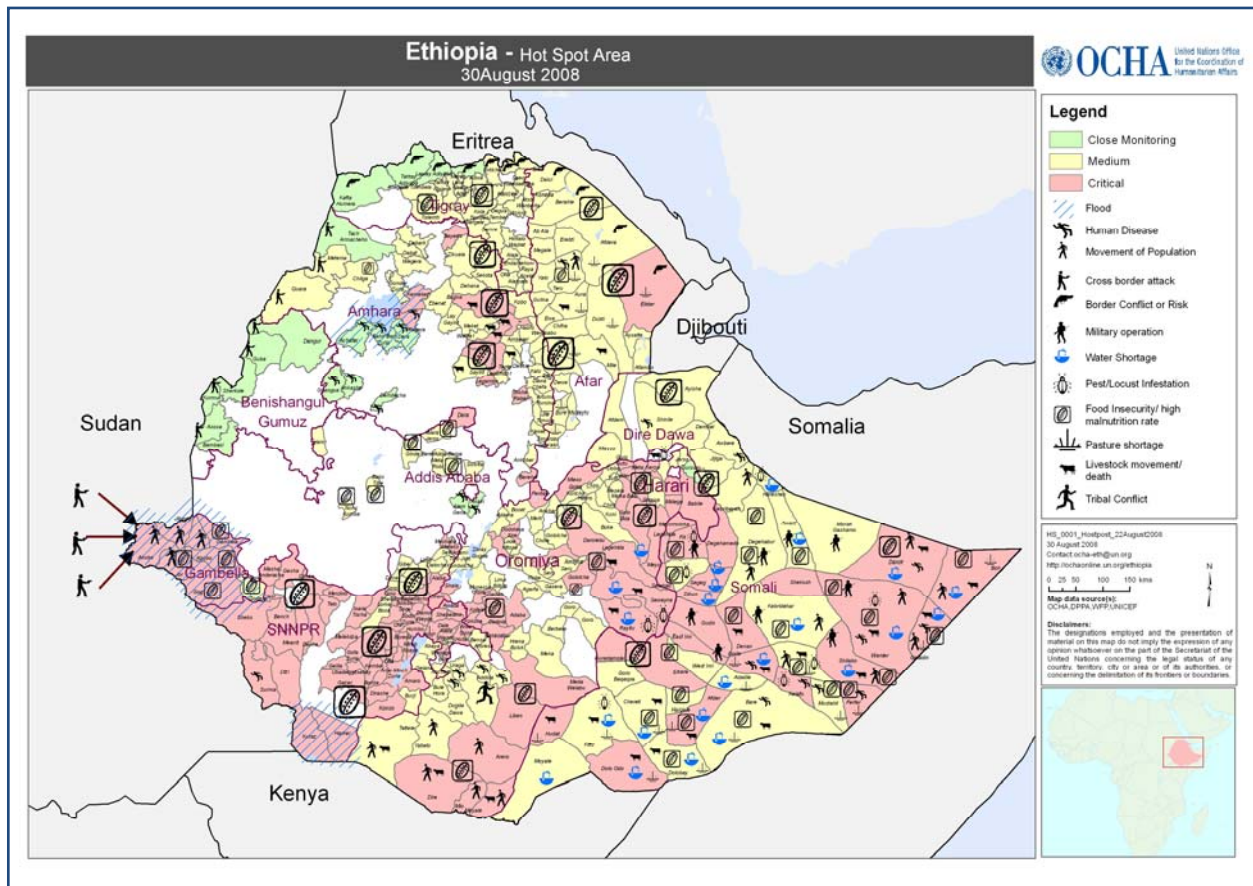
Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia

29th August 2008

Highlights:

- Government clears 9 additional NGOs to expand operations in the Somali Region
- UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, will arrive in Ethiopia on the 1st September for a three day mission to Addis Ababa, SNNPR and Somali Region.
- 13 woredas report active cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).

Humanitarian Overview



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Current Context

Ethiopia continues to face critical challenges related to deepening food insecurity. This crisis has been fuelled by both the drought and adverse market shocks triggered by increases in food and fuel prices. After the successive failure of seasonal rains beginning in December 2007 and extending through to mid May 2008, the food security situation deteriorated to alarming levels in pastoral and farming areas of parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray. Moderate and acute malnutrition rates have increased. Government and humanitarian partners continue to respond to the humanitarian needs generated by the crisis, however, considerable shortages of supplies essential for the relief operation persist.

The current drought and related food crisis has affected various regions of the country, among them Somali Region where the effects of the drought are acute. The successive failure of rains and the consequent diminishing pasture and water resources and some livestock deaths, coupled with high inflation resulting in a significant decline in the purchasing power of pastoralists render households extremely vulnerable to health and nutrition risks. The Government, in recognition of the need to scale-up humanitarian operations in the Somali Region, has authorized an additional 9 NGOs to begin new interventions in response to the crisis. The additional 9 international and national NGOs are as follows: ACF, ADRA, CONCERN, FAFAN, GOAL, LIVIA, MERLIN, MSF-Belgium and PCAE.

Sectoral Updates

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition: Reduced access to sufficient quantities of nutritionally adequate food continues to pose a threat to the nutrition status of people in the regions hit hardest by the food and drought crisis. The break in the emergency food pipeline and subsequent shortages have led to a decision to reduce the size and composition of the food basket distributed to beneficiaries to 10kg of cereal for the month of August¹. Beneficiaries who will receive the reduced ration of 10kg of cereals will obtain 1300 kcal per day which is equivalent to 62% of the daily energy requirements. The reduction amounts to a 38% reduction when compared with SPHERE standards. The table overleaf compares the nutritional benefit of the reduced food basket for August against the SPHERE standard².

¹ This excludes 35% of the beneficiaries who receive Corn-Soya Blend (CSB).

² Analysis by the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit.

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Item	Original Quantity (g)	New Quantity (g)	Kcal/g	Original kcal SPHERE standard	New kcal
Cereals	15,000	10,000	3.3	49,500	33,000
Pulses	1,500	1,000	3.35	5,025	3,350
Oil	900	300	9	810	2,700
TOTAL				62,625	39,050
Daily Total				2,088	1,302
Percent				100 %	62 %

Access to therapeutic feeding is significantly higher in Oromiya and SNNP Regions compared to other regions, however, new admissions of children with SAM remain high indicating that a substantial number of children are in need of life-saving therapeutic feeding. The situation in each of the affected regions is as follows:

- Afar: No hotspot woredas have been formally identified in Afar, however, reports from a number of partners indicate a deterioration of the food security situation as a result of the drought. The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCUC) is urging all partners with human resource capacity to conduct full nutrition surveys to gauge the impact of food insecurity upon the nutrition status of communities in drought-affected woredas.
- Amhara: Food insecurity poses a serious threat to the nutrition status of communities living in drought-affected woredas in North Gonder, North Shewa, North Wello and South Wello Zones in Amhara Region. The DPPB has identified 21 hotspot woredas that require immediate interventions to support the needs of communities during the hunger period. The hotspot woredas include; Bayeda, G/Zuria and Telemt (North Gonder Zone), Goba Lafto, Bugna, Dawunt, Delanta, Gidan, Lasta, Meket and Wadla (North Wello Zone) Sayint, Legambo, Mekdela, Tenta, Worebabu, Ambasel, Kutaber and Dessie Zuria (South Wello Zone) and Menz-Gera (North Shewa Zone).
- Oromiya: The drought and food crisis has generated widespread food insecurity for households in the affected areas of Oromiya. DPPB and ENCUC have jointly identified

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hotspot woredas on the basis of food security and nutrition situation. A total of 58 woredas in Oromiya Region are classified as 'hotspot' as follows: all woredas in East Hararghe and West Arsi Zone, Legehida, Sewenya, Rayitu, Ginur, Gololcha, Gasera, Goro, Sinana, Agarfa, Dinsho, Goba, Berbere, Mena, Harena Buluk and Guradamole woredas in Bale Zone. 2,265 children were admitted for treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) into Out-patient Treatment Programmes (OTP) and Therapeutic Feeding Units (TFUs) between the 13th and 19th August 2008³. Data on admission rates for the reporting week brings the total number of reported new admissions between 23rd July and 19th August to 8,954 cases. Partners providing therapeutic care to children suffering from SAM in 12 sites in Boke and Anchar in West Hararghe Zone and 5 sites in Sheshemane in West Arsi Zone reported a significant increase in new admissions.

- **SNNPR:** Hotspot areas are located in all woredas in Welayta, Kembata T and Sisasma Zone, with the exception of Aroresa, Badewacho woredas in Hadiya Zone, Lanfero and Sankura in Selti Zone, Marko woreda in Gurage Zone, Alabe and Konso Special woredas. The high number of children accessing treatment for SAM in SNNPR underscores the necessity for continued interventions by government and humanitarian partners. A total of 3,238 children suffering from SAM were admitted into Therapeutic Feeding Programmes between the 8th and 14th August 2008⁴. According to the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU), a total of 24,727 new admissions have been reported between 27th June and 14th August 2008 indicating that a high number of children are in need of life-saving therapeutic feeding as a result of the drought and food crisis in the region.
- **Tigray:** Regional authorities have identified 15 hotspot woredas in Tigray as follows Abergele woreda in Central Tigray Zone, Erob, Saesi Tsaedamba, Atsbi Wenberta, Gulomahda, Hawzen, Ganta Afeshum, Kite and Awlaelo/Wukro in East Tigray Zone and Alaje, Endamehoni, Ofla, Alamata, Hintalo Wajirat, Raya Azebo and Samre Sharti in South Tigray Zone. The identification of hotspot woredas enables nutrition partners to prioritise areas that require immediate interventions in the form of full nutrition surveys, rapid nutrition assessments and therapeutic feeding programmes as well as scale-up of targeted supplementary feeding interventions.

³ This figure is based upon reports submitted to the ENCU. Data on admission rates was submitted from 214 out of 250 OTP sites and 27 out of 34 TFU sites.

⁴ Figure is based on reports from 307 out of 324 OTP sites and 26 out of 33 TFUs and compiled by the ENCU.

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Health: Amhara and Oromiya Region continue to report active cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). Latest reports indicate that AWD poses a significant threat to the health in Akaki, Ada'a, Gimbichu and Lume woredas in Oromiya Region and Dejen, Ebinet, Goncha, Jawi, Bana, Takusa, Chilga, Dembia and Sekela woredas in Amhara Region. Government and humanitarian partners continue to coordinate response aimed at containing the further spread of the disease, however, rainfall and localized flooding creates a significant risk of emergence of new cases.

Response

Assessments: A number of NGOs have carried out full nutrition surveys and rapid nutrition assessments in hotspot woredas in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya and SNNP Regions in order to establish the extent to which nutrition status has been compromised by food insecurity. The findings of the surveys and assessments have been submitted to the ENCU to facilitate analysis of the nutrition situation in affected Regions and to guide interventions.

- **Afar:** SC-UK is carrying out a nutrition survey in Teru woreda. In addition to provision of therapeutic feeding in Teru, MSF-Holland is planning to conduct a nutrition assessment in Kori woreda, however, heavy rainfall has delayed progress.
- **Amhara:** World Vision has completed a rapid assessment in Tenta woreda. Initial findings indicate a deterioration of the nutrition situation as a result of food insecurity affecting vulnerable households. North Shewa Zone Health Office is planning to take nutritional assessments in Mojanana woreda, Efratana Gidim, Merahabete, Ankober and Basona Werana woredas of the zone. The Zonal Health Office has requested support from the regional Health Bureau and other actors to carry out nutritional assessments in these five woredas.
- **Oromiya:** GOAL has carried out five rapid assessments in Kuni, Kombolcha, Meta, Daolebu and Hawi Gudina woredas.
- **SNNPR:** Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted nutrition surveys in Enset Liveilhood Zone (ELZ) and Coffee Livelihood Zone (CLZ) in Sidama Zone. The survey team reported that the rate of moderate malnutrition stands at 11.5% and severe acute malnutrition at 9.7%. GOAL carried out a nutrition survey in Damote Gale woreda in Wolaita Zone. The findings of the survey are as follows: 12.1% rate of moderate and severe acute malnutrition (GAM) and 2.1% SAM with under-five mortality rate of 2.24 deaths/10,000/per day. The major reported causes of death in the under-5 age group include malnutrition, malaria and respiratory infections.

Training: Government and humanitarian partners continue to provide training to health workers to manage the treatment of severe acute malnutrition. CONCERN Worldwide has trained health

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workers in 24 health facilities in Tigray region in addition to the 19 health facilities already trained in outpatient treatment programme. World Vision are training health workers to manage cases of SAM in Amhara Region. Training of the Health Extension Workers (HEWs) to support the roll-out of treatment of SAM to the health post level is ongoing in Oromiya Region. WHO dispatched a nutritionist to Dire Dawa to support the Regional Health Bureau to train 45 health workers as well as 61 community nutrition volunteers. In Afar Region, WHO allocated funds to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) to support roll-out of the HEW programme. At the national level, the Federal Ministry of Health will convene a workshop in Adama between the 1st and 3rd September, with support from WHO, to launch the National Nutrition Strategy to staff representing the Regional Health Bureaus across the country.

Therapeutic Feeding Supplies: Since May 2008 and thanks to the contributions of the CERF, HRF, ECHO, European Commission, OFDA, Danish and Polish Governments, UNICEF procured a total of 1,900 tons of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food (Plumpy'nut and BP100) to responds to increased levels of malnutrition. In June 2008, a total of 577 tons of RUTF were distributed to the therapeutic feeding programmes in Somali, SNNPR and Oromiya for the treatment of 55,500 severely malnourished children over a 3 months period. In August 2008, 63 tons and 45 tons respectively were sent to Amhara and Tigray regions for the treatment of around 6,300 and 4,500 cases of severe malnutrition. Another 8 tons were allocated to Afar region. Finally, 518 tons are presently being distributed to 100 woredas in Oromiya and SNNPR for the roll-out of the Out-patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) at health post level. The remaining 689 tons in the pipeline are coming in the country by air each week (delivery schedule up to October 2008).

Gaps and Requirements

Insufficient coverage of targeted supplementary feeding programmes in hotspot woredas remains the critical gap in the response to the nutrition crisis. People living in 21 out of 58 hotspot woredas in Oromiya Region have no access to therapeutic or targeted supplementary feeding programme whilst 16 out of the 58 hotspot have therapeutic feeding programmes without attached targeted supplementary feeding programmes. In SNNPR, 14 out of 26 hotspot woredas have therapeutic feeding programmes without attached targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Children who are successfully treated for SAM face a significant risk of relapse and re-admission without access to the nutrition support provided by targeted supplementary feeding programmes in the period immediately following their discharge from OTP and TFU facilities. Increased coverage of Targeted Supplementary Food Programmes would also prevent children to develop severe acute malnutrition and therefore reduce the risk of child mortality.

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The needs for RUTF and other Therapeutic Feeding supplies are exacerbated by the overall shortage of food rations and targeted supplementary food which leads to an increase in admission and relapse rates in the programmes, intra-household sharing of the products and selling in the market to buy other food for the family. In Oromiya, reports indicate that RUTF is being distributed to more woredas than was initially planned because of the high number of severe malnutrition cases. In SNNPR, considerable logistical challenges are reported to be hampering the transport of the supply to the health post level.

UNICEF urgently needs to procure and transport another 1,000 tons of RUTF to cover the projected needs for September, however, the global production capacity cannot meet the demand created by the crisis in Ethiopia. There is a risk of pipeline break during the month of September. UNICEF requires an additional US\$22 million to procure 3000 tons of RUTF to cover the needs between October and December 2008.

Food Aid

Key Issues

Considerable shortfalls for relief, Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme persist due to the immediate break in the pipeline. DPPA, in collaboration with WFP, have begun allocation of food for 4.6 million beneficiaries and additional beneficiaries in hotspot woredas for the month of August. The PSNP will transfer food rations to 3.3 million beneficiaries in August and 1.7 million people will receive a two-month cash transfer. WFP and UNICEF will propose a review of the existing 163 woredas identified for coverage of Targeted Supplementary Feeding in line with early warning information so as to ensure that worst affected woredas receive priority assistance.

Response

Food Distributions:

- **Relief Response:** Between January and 15th August 2008 the following amount of food has been allocated and dispatched to the affected regions. In Somali Region, an amount of 43,029 mt has been allocated to 1,025,030 beneficiaries of which 36,089 mt have been dispatched. In SNNPR, 1,332,010 beneficiaries have been allocated 74,261 mt, of which 72,001 mt have been dispatched. In Oromiya Region, 1,088,537 beneficiaries have been allocated 35,034 mt, of which 26,460 mt have been dispatched. Some 1,332,835 beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray regions have been allocated 31,639 mt, of which 28,764 mt have been dispatched.

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- **PSNP:** During January to July 2008, an amount of 95,614 mt has been allocated to 2,309,106 PSNP beneficiaries in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray, of which some 74,844 mt have been dispatched.
- **TSF:** Dispatches for the TSF programme are reported every two weeks. An update will be provided in next week's situation report.

EOS/TSF Screening: Distribution of blended food and oil to some 7,900 malnourished children under five and pregnant women/nursing mothers started on the 22nd August in four ex-TSF priority one hotspot woredas in North and South Wollo zones in Amhara Region. The distribution of TSF follows ad hoc screening by regional authorities.

Gaps and Requirements

The total 2008 shortfall⁵ for relief, PSNP and TSF programmes amounts to 170,000 mt valued at US\$138.8 million broken down as follows:

- **Relief:** Total annual requirements for the current 4.6 million beneficiaries amount to 591,333 mt of mixed commodities. The funding shortfall amounts to some 123,000 mt of mixed commodities valued at US\$99.4 million which includes an advance of US\$21.3 million from the immediate response account (IRA) and working-capital financing (WCF).
- **Productive Safety Net Programme:** WFP shortfalls for the PSNP amount to 38,000 mt of mixed commodities valued at US\$30.1 million.
- **Targeted Supplementary Feeding** has a current commodity shortfall of 3,700 mt. In addition, some US\$4.6 million needs to be repaid to the Immediate Response Account (IRA). The total shortfall therefore amounts to 9,000 mt valued at US\$9.2 million.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Key Issues

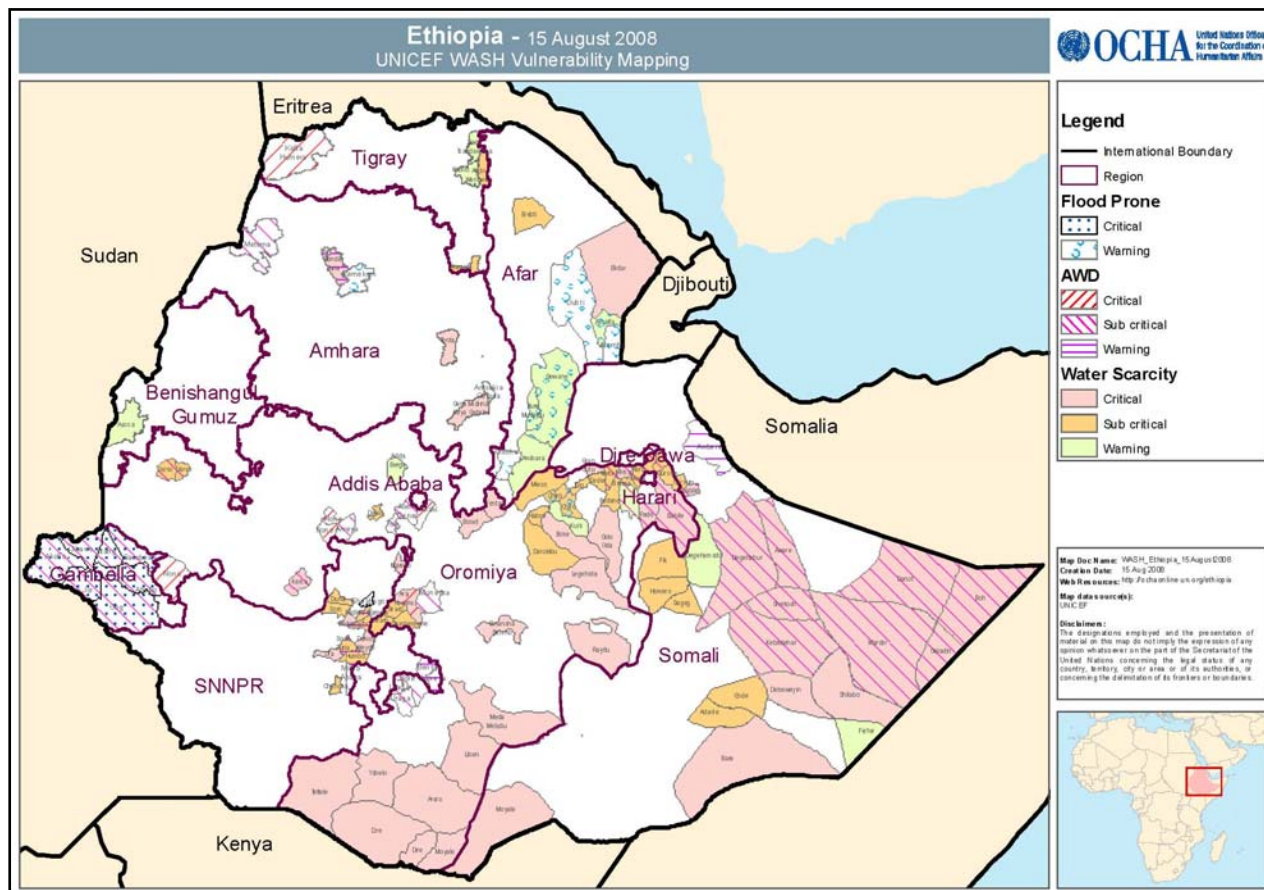
People living in drought-affected regions of the country continue to be exposed to the health and livelihood related risks posed by water shortages, flood and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). The map overleaf identifies the level of threat in specific locations.

Water Scarcity: Large numbers of people are at risk due to critical water scarcity, reduced or no coverage of water and sanitation services and extremely limited number of interventions in the following locations: Elidar (Afar), Gonder Zuria, Tenta, Gera Midima, Keya Gabriel (Amhara), Rayitu, Legehida, Golo Oda, Boke, Sinanana Dinsho, Meda Welabu, Liben, Arero, Yabelo,

⁵ Including the budget revision.

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Teltele, Dire, Moyale, Arsi Negele, Boset, Fental, Goru Guto, Kersa, Babile, Fedis (Oromiya), Ora, Damot Weyde, Badawacho (SNNPR), Aware, Degehabur, Shekosh, Kebridehar, Debeweyin, Shilabo, Warder, Danot, Boh, Geladin, Bare and Moyale (Somali Region).



Floods: According to the DPPB, approximately 31,000 people have been affected and 22,251 people displaced as a result of recent flooding in Akobo, Abobo Lare and Itang woredas. Government, UN Agencies and NGOs are identifying immediate needs and developing a joint plan of action to respond to the humanitarian needs generated by the flooding. This week emergency drugs and medical supplies will be sent to Gambella by FMOH with support from WHO.

Acute Watery Diarrhea: Rainfall and flooding is expected to create additional risk to the further spread of AWD beyond 13 affected woredas in Amhara and Oromiya Region.

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Response

Government, UN Agencies and NGOs are responding to the immediate emergency needs generated by the drought whilst simultaneously supporting early recovery and enhancing resiliency of communities to future shocks.

Emergency Interventions: Emergency interventions aim to provide water to people living in areas where water scarcity has reached critical levels and to minimise the risk of exposure to water-borne diseases and Acute Watery Diarrhea. Specific emergency interventions undertaken by government, UN and NGOs in response to the drought crisis include water tankering, procurement and distribution of water purification chemicals and the promotion of sanitation and hygiene practices. The targeted population for emergency water supply is 802,000 people⁶

Water trucking operations by the Somali Regional Water Bureau, with the support of UNICEF, and NGOs have safeguarded access to water during the emergency period for an estimated 150,000 people. In Oromiya, the Regional Water Bureau, with support from UNICEF, contracted 10 trucks to provide water to approximately 10,000 people living in areas chronically affected by the drought. Water tankering interventions by a number of NGOs in Oromiya Region have reached an additional 20,000 people. Emergency supplies to contain and treat existing cases of AWD valuing some US\$ 1 million have been dispatched to the regions by UNICEF.

Access to WASH services at OTP/TFU sites: WASH partners are working closely with counterparts in the Health and Nutrition sector to ensure that children receiving treatment for SAM at OTP and TFU sites, as well as their caretakers, have access to a supply of safe, clean drinking water and sanitation services to reduce the risk of a further deterioration of health status. The provision of emergency WASH services in selected OTP/TFU sites in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Somali Region is being resourced by CERF allocation amounting to some US\$ 1.5 million.

Early Recovery: Government and humanitarian partners remain cognizant of the need to ensure that interventions promote early recovery and capacity of communities to withstand further shocks. UNICEF and NGOs are engaged in the rehabilitation of existing water supply systems as well as the construction of new ones to increase access to water and sanitation services among the wider population.

Gaps and Requirements

In some woredas in Somali Region there are currently no operational partners on the ground with the capacity to supply water to affected households. In addition, many ongoing water supply interventions in Somali Region are planned until September and there is an urgent need to continue water supply responses until the end of the year, particularly in *berkad*-dependent areas.

⁶ This figure is likely to be revised in line with the formal confirmation of the *belg/gu* assessment.

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Chemicals for water purification and treatment remain a critical gap. The rising cost of fuel will necessitate a re-adjustment of existing budgets and projected costs of interventions as well as additional funds to meet immediate emergency water delivery needs.

Agriculture and Livestock

Key Issues

Rainfall is boosting crop growth and increasing the availability of water and pasture resources for livestock in some areas of the country. The main *meher* crops are performing well due to the recent rainfall and livestock are beginning to recover in some areas of SNNPR. Land preparation and planting of *meher* crops has commenced in Oromiya Region, however, recent flooding in East Shoa Zones has damaged crops. Hailstorms in Hawzien in East Tigray have damaged crops. In Somali Region, reports indicate that severe water shortages and depletion of pasture is leading to widespread livestock morbidity and migration.

Response

Somali Region: Slaughter and commercial de-stocking interventions continue in the Somali Region. The Hararghe Catholic Secretariat (HCS) is undertaking slaughter de-stocking in Afdem, Aysha, Dembel, Erer, Mieso and Shinile woredas in Shinile Zone. To date, HCS has slaughtered 4000 livestock. Save the Children US is operating in Dolloado and Dolobaya woredas and began a slaughter de-stocking intervention on the 13th August. MercyCorps has received funds to organise commercial de-stocking in the Gashamo area and expects to begin the intervention in early September. SAVE-UK has started emergency feeding of animals in Shinile.

Seed Interventions: The distribution of seeds to farmers in Amhara, Oromiya and SNNP Regions is progressing and close to completion in most areas of intervention. FAO expects to secure seeds for additional intervention in the Gambella Region in early September.

Gaps and Requirements

FAO continue to advocate for commercial and slaughter destocking to safeguard available pasture and rangeland resources for core breeding stock. FAO and partners are urging humanitarian partners to plan for supporting early recovery interventions to safeguard livelihoods and future food security prospects.

Humanitarian Response Fund

Funding Status

The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF), managed by UN OCHA, has allocated some US\$ 32.3 million to UN Agencies and NGOs to support emergency interventions across the country. Since the beginning of 2008 the HRF has received funds from DfID, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway. In addition, the HRF has pledges in the pipeline amounting to some US\$24 million from DfID, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

New Applications Approved

Agency	Amount US \$	Sector	Location
ACF	162,085	WASH	Shilabo district, Korahe zone, Somali
ACF	123,662	WASH	Warder district, Warder zone, Somali
Mercy Corps	669,240	WASH/AG	Degahmedo and Gunagado woredas, Degehabur zone, Somali
Mercy Corps	475,197	Nutrition	Degahmedo and Gunagado woredas, Degehabur zone, Somali
Joint FHI/COOPI	322,334	WASH, Protection Assessment	Benishangul and Oromiya displaced

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Humanitarian Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Location and Time
Monday 1 st September	Special Committee on the Somali Region	DPPA, 14.30 (Invitation Only).
Tuesday 2 nd September	Water Task Force Meeting	Ministry of Water Resources, 10.00.
Wednesday 3 rd September	Health Partners Forum Meeting	WHO Conference Room, E.C.A Building, 14.30.
Thursday 4 th September	Humanitarian Coordination Meeting	UNDP Conference Hall, E.C.A. 10.00.
Friday 5 th September	Food Aid Task Force Meeting Safety and Security Meeting	DPPA, 09.00. UNDSS Office, 09.30.

Contact Information

Fidele Sarasso Humanitarian Coordinator	fidele.sarassoro@undp.org Tel.: 251-11-5444483
Vincent Lelei Head of Office, OCHA	lelei@un.org Tel.: 251-11-5444248
Gregory Beals Information Officer, OCHA	beals@un.org Tel.: 251-11-5444162

Editorial Note: The information in this document is based on reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners as well as the different coordination forums.